Islamic art

Islamic art encompasses the diverse visual arts produced within Islamic culture, spanning from the 7th century to the 19th century and beyond. It's not solely religious art but includes all art forms created in Islamic lands, by Muslims and non-Muslims alike, for patrons of various faiths. Key characteristics include calligraphy, geometric patterns (arabesques), and floral designs, often found in architecture, ceramics, textiles, and other decorative arts.

Key Aspects of Islamic Art:

*** Diverse Range:**

Islamic art includes architecture (mosques, palaces), calligraphy, ceramics, metalwork, textiles (carpets, embroidery), painting (miniatures), and more.

*** Beyond Religion:**
While Islamic art is associated with the religion of Islam, it also encompasses secular art, reflecting the diverse cultures and traditions of the Islamic world.
*** Arabic Calligraphy:**
A prominent art form, calligraphy is used to decorate buildings, objects, and manuscripts, often featuring verses from the Quran.
Geometric and Floral Patterns:
Intricate geometric patterns and stylized floral designs, known as arabesques, are a hallmark of Islamic art, symbolizing the infinite nature of God according to some art historians.
*** Aniconism:**
A tendency to avoid figural representation, especially in religious contexts, due to the belief that depicting humans or animals could be seen as idolatry.
*** Influence:**
Islamic art has significantly influenced Western art, particularly through techniques like decorative calligraphy, metalwork, and tile mosaics.

*** Geographical Scope:**

Islamic art spans a vast geographical area, from Spain and North Africa to the Middle East, Central Asia, and parts of India and China.

Examples:

Notable examples include the Dome of the Rock, the Alhambra, and the Taj Mahal, as well as various mosques, manuscripts, and decorative objects.

*** Arabic calligraphy:**

Arabic calligraphy is the artistic practice of handwriting and calligraphy using the Arabic

script. It's a revered art form, deeply rooted in Islamic culture, where it's used to beautify the written word, especially religious texts like the Quran. The practice goes beyond mere handwriting, incorporating various styles and techniques to create visually appealing and meaningful compositions.

Here's a more detailed look:

*** Historical Significance:**

Arabic calligraphy has been around for over 1400 years, evolving from practical scripts used to copy the Quran into a sophisticated art form.

*** Spiritual Connection:**

It's considered the most revered of all Islamic arts, as it's the medium through which the Quran, the holy book of Islam, is transmitted and preserved.

*** Diverse Styles:**

Various styles have developed over time, including Kufic, Naskh, Thuluth, and Diwani, each with its unique characteristics and applications.

*** Artistic Expression:**

Arabic calligraphy is not just about legibility; it's about creating beautiful and harmonious designs, using the 28 letters of the Arabic alphabet in a

cursive and fluid manner.

*** Wide Range of Applications:**

It's used in religious contexts, such as mosque decorations and Quranic manuscripts, but also in secular settings like architecture, art, and even everyday objects like jewelry and greeting cards.

*** Cultural Importance:**

Arabic calligraphy is an important part of Arab and Islamic cultural identity, reflecting the region's rich heritage and artistic traditions.

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https://archive.org/details/@wazefapress

Resources:

https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Art/Art_History_(Boundless)/10%3A_Islamic_Art/10.01%3A_Introduction_to_Islamic_Art

https://www.louvre.fr/en/explore/the-palace/an-introduction-to-islamic-art

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zb3wmbk#zvdn3qt

https://arabthought.org/en/blog/113/how-islamic-art-influenced-the-west

https://www.artsy.net/gene/islamic-art-and-architecture

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_calligraphy

https://www.qfi.org/resources/infographics/arabic-calligraphy/

https://www.middleeasteye.net/discover/arabic-calligraphy-guide-seven-styles

https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/arabic-calligraphy-knowledge-skills-and-practices-01718